

# THE GOSPEL: THE ONLY ESSENTIAL AMONG NON-ESSENTIALS

The gospel is the essence of Christianity. God is perfect and we, collectively and individually, are imperfect. This means that we cannot be in relationship with God. Our imperfection has two parts: intrinsically each of us is less than the design for humanity, and each of us has at least once made an explicit decision to do something we knew to be wrong. God decided to act on our behalf. He incarnated himself as a human, Jesus Christ, lived a perfect life, yet was executed as one penalized for imperfection, and then came back to life three days later. His life was exemplary, the life we were meant to live. His death was substitutionary; that is, He accepted the penalties for each of our willful imperfections. His resurrection was proof of His righteousness: for while He could die on our behalf, He did not need to stay dead because He Himself had never earned that penalty of imperfection. We are permitted to join Him in resurrection and therefore, somehow, acquire His perfection. This is the grace of God: that we are made righteous (i.e. perfect in His sight) and may join His presence and purpose for eternity if we believe and accept His actions on our behalf.

There are many difficult topics in our culture, but as you engage them, remember these things:

1. The gospel is the main essential truth. Do not be caught up in endless arguments and forget the gospel (2 Timothy 2:23).
2. The gospel has something to say about everything in our lives. It is not just an addition to your life - it is your life. God's profound holiness and God's profound grace combine to speak truth and love into the most difficult of situations.

## SCRIPTURE VERSES

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Romans

Hebrews

## SERMONS

R.C. Sproul Imputed Righteousness: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lapqqQ45Q4w>

## ARTICLES

<https://www.desiringgod.org/topics/the-gospel#>

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/what-is-the-gospel/>

## BOOKS

*Prodigal God* - Timothy Keller

## NOT TRUSTWORTHY

Rob Bell

(\*Originally published by Resonate Church.)